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SECRET

1 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Director re House Armed Services Committee, Staff Clearances, and Senate Appropriations CIA Subcommittee Matters

1. This morning the Director told me of several conversations he had at a social gathering over the weekend where a number of top officials were present.

2. In a conversation with Representative Leslie Arends, the Director raised the matter of regularly briefing the full House Armed Services Committee as had been suggested by Chairman Hebert. Mr. Arends fully agreed with the Director's concern over this procedure, although he offered no particular solution.

3. In another conversation, Representative Gerald Ford mentioned to the Director his concern about the security and discretion of certain new members of the House, and important House committees. The Director reminded Mr. Ford that House members were not subject to any formal security clearance, but there was a serious problem so far as staff personnel were concerned. He mentioned that one member of Representative Wright Patman's staff had "no past at all." Mr. Ford commented that this was a serious situation and he planned to take it up with Speaker Albert.

4. The Director discussed with Deputy Secretary of Defense Packard the problem of briefing Senator Allen Ellender on certain sensitive projects of concern jointly to the Agency and the Defense Department. On the basis of this conversation, and of his conversation last week with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, the Director decided he should consult Senator Milton Young, who has already been briefed on these projects, in the near future.

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5. The Director also had a brief conversation with Senator John McClellan to whom he expressed the hope that McClellan might chair the Agency Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. McClellan was noncommital.

6. I told the Director of my conversation with Philip Kelleher regarding the possibility of Representative O. C. Fisher chairing the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services. The Director thought this would be a happy solution to the problem, but said he didn't feel in a position to raise it with Chairman Hebert, at least for the present.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:
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1 - Senate Appropriations Committee
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